Vol. IX. Numb. 89.

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Rebuke to the Examiner, *with further Remarks on his ſeditious Way of Writing. The Church prov'd to be in danger from the Highfliers, by the Queen's Authority. A further Proof of it by the Lord Biſhop of* Sarum, *with his Vindication of the Whigs from that unjuſt Slander.*

From Saturday, November 18. to Wednesday, November 22. 1710.

Countrym. WERE it not beſt for us to let the *Examiner* alone, Maſter? He's an Author of ſuch a Gigantick Size, if we take his own Word for't, that he is able to cruſh ſuch Pigmies as you and I with his little finger.

Obſ. Never fear, *Roger*; I'll warrant you we ſhall be able to take his dimenſions, except his Wit, Learning, and Reaſon come to bear a greater proportion to his Malice and Preſumption than hitherto we have ſeen them. I remember to have read a Story of a certain Projector, who propos'd to *Alexander the Great* to cut Mount *Athos* into the Form of a Man, holding a Baſin in one hand to receive all the Rivers in that part of *Greece*, and throw 'em out again into the Sea; and in the other hand, a large City that might contain all the Inhabitants of that part of the Country. To which that Great Prince made no other Reply, but by asking him where he would put the Land that was neceſſary to maintain ſo many People. The *Examiner* may apply the Story if he pleaſes, *Roger*; but I am afraid he will find his Tongue a great deal too large for his Mouth.

Countrym. Not ſo hard upon him, Maſter. You ſee he is of our ſide, as rank a Whig as ever p—ſs'd. He is for preſerving us againſt Fanaticiſm, Infidelity in Religion, and Anarchy under the name of a Commonwealth, on one ſide; and againſt Popery, Slavery, and the Pretender from *France*, on the other: We have his *Ipſe dixit* for it, in his Paper of Thurſday laſt.

Obſ. So I have heard of an Aſs that ſtrutted about in a Lion's Skin, *Roger*; but the dull Brute was at laſt diſcover'd by his Ears. The *Examiner* has the ſame ill Fate; ſo that we may juſtly apply to him a Diſtich that has been frequently apply'd to Writers of his Stamp and Pretenſions:

Aut fabrum forceps, aut ars ignara fefellit
Ἐιρήνην dum vult cudere, cudit Ἔριν.

Which in *Engliſh* Doggerel is thus:

Either the Smith's unskilful Tongs, or Art deceiv'd him far;
For whilſt he talk'd of forging Peace, he hammer'd out a War.

If the *Examiner* be for preſerving our Conſtitution in Church and State, why does he fall in with thoſe who are for overturning both? If he be for a Limited Monarchy, how comes it that we find him in the Tents of thoſe that have publickly declar'd for *Loyalty without Bounds, Obedience without Reſerve, and an Irreſiſtible and Uncontroulable Power in the Prince on any pretence whatſoever*; contrary to the known Laws of the Land, which are the Meaſure of Prerogative and Rule, as well as of Property and Obedience? If he be for the Doctrine and Diſcipline of the Church, why does he ſet up for the Champion of a Party, who wou'd proſtitute her Doctrine to Popery, and her Diſcipline to Perſecution? I would have him to remember the *Spartans*, who thought it glorious to ſteal, but reckon'd it very ignominious to be taken in the fact. He ſhould be more upon his guard, and learn to lay on his Colours with a fine Pencil, and not with a Plaiſtering-Bruſh: Such a viſible Contradiction betwixt Profeſſion and Practice he would call Hypocriſy in a Whig, then pray what name does it deſerve in himſelf?

Countrym. Hold, hold, Maſter! He will ſay you don't treat him like a Gentleman.

Obſ. I treat him as he deſerves, *Roger*: No man will draw upon a Porter, for whom a Cane's the propereſt Weapon. He that will keep no Meaſures with others, ought not to expect they ſhould be kept towards himſelf. An Author who exceeds all the Rules of Modeſty ſo far, as to libel the Government, and alledg that 'for twenty 'years paſt they have put a great part of the Na'tion's Mony into the hands of thoſe, who by 'their Birth, Education, and Merit could pretend 'to no higher than to wear our Liveries;' [*Examiner*, Numb. 15.] deſerves to be treated no otherwiſe than as a Footman. But whenever he thinks fit to lay aſide Railing and Billingſgate, and to argue like a Gentleman and a Scholar, I will be bound for my Good Behaviour to treat him as ſuch, how *ſtupid*, *illiterate*, *dirty and rough an Idiot* ſoever he is pleas'd to call me. In the mean time, I hope he won't take it ill, if I deſire him to hang his lovely String of Epithets about his own Neck, till he can meet with a Perſon who has a better Title to them than himſelf. Now, *Roger*, let's come to his Arguments, if you can tell me how to ſeparate them from his Ribaldry.

Countrym. With all my heart, Maſter; but that's a difficult Task. You ſee that in his laſt Paper he ſtill inſiſts that the Church has been in imminent danger even ſince the Vote of both Houſes, and her Majeſty's Proclamation to the contrary; but thinks he comes off in Coach, when he denies it to have been ſo *from* or *under* the Queen's Adminiſtration.

Obſ. This polite Author has beſtow'd ſome part of his Good-Breeding upon the Queen, as well as upon her late Miniſters, *Roger*, before now. In his Paper, *Numb.* 14. towards the Cloſe, he ſays, they *kept her in Pupilage towards perpetuating the War*; which, in the Language of a Nurſe, is *Leading-Strings*. How decently that is expreſs'd, either with relation to her Majeſty or her Miniſtry, is fitter to be enquir'd into by others, *Roger*, who are greater Maſters of Ceremony than you or I ever pretended to. However, this we may venture to ſay, and have all *Europe* to ſecond us in it, that if the late Miniſtry kept her Majeſty in *Pupilage*, they advanc'd their Pupil to a greater Height of Glory than any of her Predeceſſors ever arriv'd

to;

to; or which is a Language more becoming dutiful Subjects, under her Majesty's Directions and Auspices, they brought the Arms and Credit of the Nation to the very Zenith of Glory; but to speak a little more poetically, her Majesty, by their Administration, was rever'd as the *Goddess of Wisdom, Wealth and War*: If there be too many *W*'s in the Sentence, I can't help it, for he's a Whig that writes it, who never yet saw any reason to be asham'd of the Name; and the worst I wish the present Ministry, is, that they may pursue the same good Measures, and be bless'd with equal Success.

Countrym. Pray keep to the *Examiner*'s Argument of the Danger of the Church and State, Master.

Obs. I have hitherto done so, *Roger*; for if, under the late Ministry, the State rose to such a height of Reputation, as all the World knows it did, it must be a very false Charge to say 'twas in Danger; and the like may be said of the Church, which the Upper House of Convocation, as well as the Queen and Parliament, own'd to be *then in a safe and flourishing Condition*, let the *Examiner* say what he pleases: However, I'll be so complaisant to him, *Roger*, as to agree that the Church has been in Danger, and is still in Danger, notwithstanding that Vote, *&c.* but I am afraid we shall differ in the manner how.

Countrym. Pray let me hear that, Master, I fancy you'l come within ken of one another at last.

Obs. Yes, *Roger*, when the two Poles meet, but scarce before, except the *Examiner* alter his Course: However, I'l produce my Vouchers, and if the *Examiner* do the like, the World will be better able to judg betwixt us. Her Majesty, in her Letter to the Archbishop, mention'd in my last, says, 'We declar'd our Resolution to maintain our Supremacy, and the due Subordination of Presbyters to Bishops, as fundamental Parts of the Constitution of the Church of *England*. We did hope, that so plain a Declaration of our Royal Intention would have been a sufficient warning to those of the Clergy, whose *Innovations* (contrary to the Duty they ow'd to us, and their Ecclesiastical Superiours) gave us occasion to make it: Yet, contrary to our Expectation, we understand, that not only the former *illegal Practices* are continu'd, but also, by the Proceedings laid before us by you and your Suffragans, that the last Prorogation of the Convocation held before you, which you made by our Command, signify'd in our Writ under our Great Seal, has been by divers of the Clergy of the said Convocation, in their Application to you, reflected on as unprecedented, and contrary to the antient and constant Usage of the Convocation, which your self, and the Bishops of your Province, were bound in Conscience to have seen maintain'd and preserv'd to them. We are satisfy'd that Assertion is *untrue* in point of Fact, and amounts to a plain *Invasion of our Royal Supremacy*, which is repos'd in us by the Law, and the Constitution of the Church of *England*; and that their subsequent Declarations being evasive, and contrary to what they had before done, has rather aggravated than lessen'd the Guilt of so dangerous an Attempt.'

Now, *Roger*, *undutiful Behaviour to the Queen and Ecclesiastical Superiours*, *Innovations*, *illegal Practices*, *Untruths* in point of Fact, and *an Invasion upon the Royal Supremacy*, are here charg'd upon the *Examiner*'s Highflying Party by the Queen her self; which fully proves the Church, and the Crown too, to have been, and to continue still in Danger by that Party, since they go on with the same measures. Let the *Examiner* produce a Voucher of equal Authority, to prove the Danger of Church and State from the Whigs if he can.

Countrym. I am afraid he'l be as hard put to it to do so, Master, as to clear himself from the Crimes fasten'd upon him by the Queen's Proclamation, exhibited in your last. He had best call his Footman to help him out at a dead lift; I doubt you have cut out Work enough for *Ned* and his Master both. They would do well to summon a Ring about them in *St. James*'s Square, or *Lincolns-Inn Fields*, and call the *Portuguese* Ambassador's Priests, with all the Jacobite Conventiclers to their Assistance, headed by *Damaree* and *Purchase*; and let them take Mr. *Dodwell*, Mr. *Lesley*, Dr. *Hicks*, Dr. *Sacheverel*, Dr. *Welton*, Mr. *Higgins*, &c. for Seconds.

Obs. They may raise the whole Posse of High-Church, if they please, *Roger*; the Queen's Proclamation and Letter will be too hard for them: However since 'tis but reasonable that all loyal Subjects should be ready to assist her Majesty on occasion, we will call in the Evidence of a Right Reverend Bishop, whose Learning and Moderation make him the Object of the Party's Fury, because they are not otherwise able to cope with him.

Countrym. Pray do, Master, I'l run for his Lordship with all my heart.

Obs. He's here at hand, *Roger*; 'tis the Lord Bishop of *Sarum*, who has defeated whole Legions of the Party e'er now. In his two Sermons on the 5th and 7th instant, *pag.* 22, 23. he tells us, 'The 'Popish Leaven is fermenting among us, and particularly a Notion that goes further even than 'their Uncharitableness, *viz.* a Conceit that denies all who are not baptiz'd in the Church of '*England* to be Christians.——This is receiv'd by 'many among the other wild Conceits of the 'Corrupter of our Faith and Church (meaning 'Mr. *Dodwell*) who broach'd this, with many 'other monstrous Errors, which he has carry'd 'so near Atheism, as to deny the Immortality of 'the Soul, and to put the immortalizing Vertue 'in Baptism given by Persons episcopally ordain'd.———This is not the only Step some are 'making towards Popery.——*P.* 22. There seems 'to be in some a slackening of Zeal against the 'Corruptions of Popery, a Willingness to forget 'them, and an Inclination to return to kinder 'Thoughts concerning that Religion.' So far this learned and pious Bishop tells us of the present Danger of the Church from the Highfliers, *Roger*: And as to the other side of the Question, of its Danger from the Whigs, he declares himself solemnly thus; *pag.* 16. 'I have been now these 22 'years in a Station, and in Circumstances that has 'let me into the Counsels and Designs of that sort 'of Men on whom these Suspicions are fasten'd; 'and *I do solemnly, as in the Presence of God, declare*, and appeal to him who knows all things, 'and knows that I lye not, when I say, that *I never heard or knew of any Designs against the Church, but much to the contrary*; and that all 'the Favour shew'd the Dissenters, was only from 'the Principles of Humanity, Charity and good 'Policy, without any Design to exalt them, or to 'depress, much less to destroy the Church; but 'on the contrary, to dispose them, by the wisest 'and best Methods could be thought on, to unite 'with the Church, that so we may be one Body 'firmly compacted together.'

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